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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	PDI-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	PA-00
	PM-00	GIWI-00	STR-00	BBG-00	R-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	SAS-00	/000W				

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O 091235Z DEC 05  
 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2247  
 INFO CIA WASHINGTON DC  
 DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//ASD/ISA//  
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
 USDOC WASHDC  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
 AMEMBASSY ROME  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
 USMISSION USNATO  
 USMISSION USOSCE  
 COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS PARIS 008357

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;  
 EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA  
 FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR  
 AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;  
 ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - SECRETARY RICE IN EUROPE -  
 IRAN  
 PARIS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

SECRETARY RICE IN EUROPE  
 IRAN

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE LAST DAY OF SECRETARY RICE'S VISIT TO EUROPE DOES NOT  
 SPARK A GREAT DEAL OF COMMENTARY TODAY AND DAILIES TEND TO  
 AGREE THAT SHE WAS RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL IN CALMING ALLIES ON  
 THE U.S.'S TREATMENT OF TERROR SUSPECTS. (SEE PART C)

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THE MAJORITY OF HEADLINES FOCUS ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1905 SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE LAW IN FRANCE. INTERIOR MINISTER SARKOZY'S PROPOSAL FOR FRENCH MOSQUES TO BE FINANCED BY THE STATE IS DISCUSSED IN SEVERAL ANALYSES.

ALL MEDIA REPORT ON THE COMMENTS OF THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT AT THE SUMMIT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA QUESTIONING THE HOLOCAUST AND SAYING THAT ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE BEEN CREATED OUT OF PROVINCES IN AUSTRIA AND GERMANY. (SEE PART C)

CATHOLIC LA CROIX CARRIES A FULL PAGE ON THE SUMMIT IN SAUDI ARABIA THAT UNITED MUSLIM LEADERS FROM 57 COUNTRIES, TO REINFORCE THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND TO DEFEND THE IMAGE OF ISLAM ACCORDING TO THE DAILY. EDITORIALIST JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PLOQUIN WRITES: "ONLY THE FUTURE WILL TELL IF THIS APPROACH IS THE RIGHT ONE TO FIGHT ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM. AS LONG AS REGIMES IN THE MUSLIM WORLD TRY TO BASE THEIR LEGITIMACY ON ISLAM, THEY WILL BE AT THE MERCY OF FUNDAMENTALISTS."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES A TWO-PAGE FOCUS ON THE ALLEGED CIA FLIGHTS: "HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRACK DOWN THE ACTIVITIES OF AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE JOB IT IS TO TRACK DOWN? TO NAIL THE CIA, CATCH IT IS THE ACT OR ESTABLISH ENOUGH PROOF OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE?" LE MONDE EXPLAINS IN DETAIL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION, EXTRADITION AND SECRET PRISONS. A SEPARATE PIECE RELATES THE STORY OF A GERMAN CITIZEN WHO WAS MISTAKENLY ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO KABUL FOR QUESTIONING.

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO'S EMBEDDED JOURNALIST IN IRAQ ADRIEN JAULMES PENS AN ACCOUNT OF THE DIFFICULT SECURITY SITUATION IN IRAQ ENTITLED: " THE FAILURES THE AMERICAN WAR MACHINE." JAULMES WRITES THAT THE IRAQI MILITARY IS FAR FROM CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT AUTONOMOUS OPERATIONS AND THAT THE AMERICAN WAR MACHINE, TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT HIGH INTENSITY INTERVENTIONS IS HAVING A HARD TIME ADAPTING TO AN ENEMY ABLE TO BLEND INTO THE POPULATION. THIS RESULTS IN BLUNDERS THAT RANGE FROM TACTLESSNESS TO TRAGEDY."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

SECRETARY RICE IN EUROPE

IN REGIONAL DAILY LA CHARENTE LIBRE JACQUES GUYON EDITORIALIZES (12/09): "MS RICE WAS PERSUASIVE IN PUTTING FORWARD THAT IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM THERE IS AN EXTREMELY FRAGILE BALANCE BETWEEN THE VALUES THAT WE DEFEND AND THE METHODS USED TO SAVE INNOCENT LIVES. SHE DID NOT DENY THE

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EXISTENCE OF THE SECRET CIA FLIGHTS BUT NEITHER DID SHE JUSTIFY THE USE OF MEASURES SUCH AS EXTRADITION TO INTERROGATE SUSPECTS. AND IT IS WITH EXTREME ADROITNESS THAT SHE BROUGHT UP THE CASE OF CARLOS THE JACKAL WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN SUDAN BY THE FRENCH DGSE, DRUGGED AND FLOWN ON A SECRET SERVICE FLIGHT TO PARIS. THIS IS A WEIGHTY ARGUMENT AND CONDOLEEZZA RICE MADE THE POINT THAT THE EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THREW OUT CARLOS' COMPLAINT AS TO THE ILLEGAL NATURE OF HIS EXTRADITION. IT IS A SHAME HOWEVER THAT MS. RICE DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO GIVE A DATE FOR THE DETAINEES AT GUANTANAMO TO BE TRIED, CARLOS FOR HIS PART WAS TRIED AND SENTENCED.

TWICE."

IRAN

RENAUD GIRARD IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (12/09): "TWO MONTHS AGO THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIMSELF BY STATING THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE WIPE OFF THE MAP. YESTERDAY HE FUELED THE FIRE FURTHER. BY CASTING DOUBTS ON THE HOLOCAUST. HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPENLY MOCK EUROPE AND NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS ENRAGED AT WHAT HE SEES AS THE EU3 RALLYING TO THE AMERICAN STANCE, BUT IS ALSO, AND ESPECIALLY, BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE IN A POSITION OF POWER. INDEED AMERICA'S POWER OF DISSUASION, WHICH WAS AT ITS HIGHEST IN THE REGION IN FEBRUARY OF 2003, IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE U.S.'S INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ. TODAY TEHERAN HAS TWO POWERFUL WEAPONS AT ITS DISPOSAL, THE ABILITY TO INFLAME THE SHIITE COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ AND TO SPARK A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL. BY ATTACKING IRAQ, A COUNTRY THAT WAS NOT PROLIFERATING, THE AMERICAN NEO-CONSERVATIVES HAVE PARADOXICALLY OFFERED A PERFECT HAVEN FOR IRAN THE ONLY REAL PROLIFERATING COUNTRY OF THE MIDDLE EAST." STAPLETON

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